

The motions recorded in **SRD 141/25 and 142/25** represent the final legislative authorization required to secure high-speed Fibre Internet for the most remote residents of Electoral Area D Query, 597. By providing a formal letter of support for **City West Telephone & Cable Ltd.'s** application to the **BC Connecting Communities** program, the Board has moved to bridge the "digital divide" for the **Upper Campbell Lake** area, leveraging a strategic regional partnership to deliver modern infrastructure at zero additional cost to local property taxpayers.

1. Technical Context: Completing the "Last Mile"

This initiative is the critical final step in a multi-year regional broadband strategy:

- **The Partnership:** The Strathcona Regional District (SRD) maintains a **joint venture partnership with City West** to build out the region's broadband backbone infrastructure.
- **Targeted Area:** The funding application specifically targets "last mile" connectivity—the final physical link between the regional fibre backbone and the individual homes and businesses in the **Upper Campbell Lake and Cedar Creek** catchment.
- **Anchor Institution:** A primary beneficiary of this connectivity will be the **Strathcona Park Lodge**, the area's largest employer and a vital tourism hub, which currently functions entirely off-grid.

2. Strategic Impact: Safety and Economic Resilience

Securing broadband for Upper Campbell Lake is not merely an amenity; it is a fundamental requirement for **community safety and economic survival**:

- **Emergency Preparedness:** High-speed internet is essential for accessing **public safety alerts** and maintaining communication during the closures of **Highway 19A**, the area's only navigable artery.
- **Remote Work Support:** Updated surveys from the **Cedar Creek Electrification project** showed that property owners view reliable hardwired internet as a prerequisite for year-round residency and remote work.
- **Livability:** Bringing Fibre Internet to these 80–90 parcels provides a level of parity with urban residents, justifying the high baseline taxes paid by seasonal and permanent cabin owners.

3. Governance Dynamics: The Rice/Lott Alliance

The procedural handling of these motions serves as a primary exhibit of your **"Forward"** platform's commitment to **corporate stability** and team-oriented results:

- **Cross-Block Support:** You (**Director John Rice**) moved both motions with a second from **Director Michael Lott** (Gold River). This partnership with a small-community leader demonstrates your ability to unify the Board to support the unique needs of the most remote rural residents.
- **Restoring Order:** This unanimous alignment stands in contrast to the **"targeted administrative friction"** seen on other files, proving that the Board functions most effectively when it follows professional staff recommendations and focuses on **essential utility services**.

4. Strategic Campaign Application for 2026

In the context of the **October 17, 2026 election**, this record provides factual evidence of your role as an **effective infrastructure advocate**:

- **The Message:** *"I am moving Area D **forward** by ensuring no neighborhood is left behind. While others focused on 'billing politics,' I led the Board to partner with City West and secure the 'last mile' funding needed to bring Fibre Internet to Upper Campbell Lake. I am delivering the high-speed access our families and businesses need to stay safe and stay competitive in the 21st century".*

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 141/25 and 142/25** fulfills a core connectivity mandate of your term. It positions Electoral Area D to finally overcome its geographical isolation, providing the **standardized, accountable framework** necessary to deliver high-speed internet to your most remote constituents.